

[Translation]

"Poaching of Tiger"

428. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any international gang of poachers is active in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh for exporting the poached tigers; and

(b) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to check the poaching ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) No such report has been received by Government of India from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh. However, Madhya Pradesh has been declared as 'Tiger State' and a State level 'Tiger Cell' involving officials of the Police and Forest Departments has been constituted to improve the intelligence gathering network and control tiger poaching incidents. The steps taken by the Government are as under :

- i) A "Tiger Crisis Cell" has been set up in the Ministry;
- (ii) The State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling;
- (iii) Steps have been initiated to set up "Special Strike Force" in the Project Tiger areas;
- (iv) Madhya Pradesh, which has the largest number of tigers in India, has been designated as "Tiger State" to focus attention on the conservation of tiger and its habitat.
- (v) A protocol has been signed with the Government of the Peoples Republic of China to coordinate bilateral efforts to stop illegal activities of poaching of tigers, and to endeavour jointly to combat smuggling and the illegal trade of tiger bones and other parts of its body.
- vi) Steps have been initiated by the Government to establish the "Global Tiger Forum" for strengthening international cooperation to curb poaching of tiger and to coordinate efforts for the conservation of tiger and its habitat throughout the range countries.

Renaming of Cities

429. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the cities renamed by the Government during the last one year;

(b) whether the Government of Gujarat have

requested the Union Government of rename the Ahmedabad city as Karnavati; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Union Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Approval to rename Madras as Chennai was given by the Central Government during the relevant period. Besides **ex post facto** approval was given during the year for renaming twenty three districts/taluks in Kerala with a view to avoiding the difference in pronunciation in Malayalam and English. Details in this regard are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) A proposal for changing the name of 'Ahmedabad' to 'Karnavati' was received from the State Government of Gujarat in May 1996. The matter has been referred to the new State Government for its views.

Statement

(a)	Existing name in English	Changed in name in English
DISTRICTS		
1.	Trivandrum	Thiruvananthapuram
2.	Quilon	Kollam
3.	Alleppey	Alappuzha
4.	Trichur	Thrissur
5.	Palghat	Palakkad
6.	Cannanore	Kannur
TALUKS		
1.	Tellicherry	Thalassery
2.	Badagara	Vadakara
3.	Parur	Paravur
4.	Alwaye	Aluva
5.	Cochin	Kochi
6.	Devicolum	Devikulam
7.	Changanacherry	Changanassery
8.	Shertallay	Chertala
9.	Chierayinkil	Chirayinkeezhu
10.	Chowghat	Chavakkad
11.	Cranganore	Kodungallur
12.	Trichur	Thrissur
13.	Palghat	Palakkad
14.	Mannarghat	Mannarkad
15.	Mannantoddy	Mananthavady
16.	Sultan's Battery	Sulthanbathery
17.	Cannanore	Kannur